

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Minkus et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,460,617). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kimber (U.S. Patent No. 6,068,614). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hirschman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,042,565). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shanley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,685,864). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Minkus or Kimber or Hirschman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 is canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of newly-added claims 6-10.

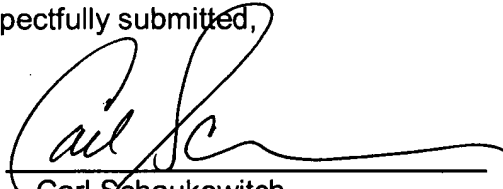
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 28, 2005

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (3 months)

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